CORPS OF ENGINEERS PLANNING ENHANCEMENTS

May 2006 Conference
Planning Community of Practice

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Session Agenda

- Introduction
- Peer Review
  - Reports from the Centers
    - HSDP Peer Review
    - DDN Lessons Learned
- Panel Discussion – Q/A
- Model Certification
  - Presentation
  - Panel Discussion
  - Q/A

Reasons for Enhancements

- Increase the public's confidence in the quality and credibility of the USACE Civil Works program
- Increase understanding of the Congress, other federal agencies, stakeholders and the public about the CW program and set expectations on how the program will be conducted.
- Move toward formalizing improved planning and decision processes within the Civil Works program.
- Use the two-year window of the Engineering Circulars to provide the flexibility to change and adapt, as lessons are learned and greater efficiencies are found

Recent Enhancements

Five new Engineer Circulars *(precursor to full regulations to allow refinement based on experience)*

- EC 1105-2-405 - DE Report Summary
- EC 1105-2-406 - DE Presentations of Decision Documents
- EC 1105-2-407- Planning Models Improvement Program
- EC 1105-2-408 - Peer Review
- EC 1105-2-409 - Collaborative Planning

EC 408 - Peer Review

- Basis:
  - OMB Peer Review Bulletin
  - EPA Peer Review Handbook
  - February draft Senate WRDA
  - NRC Section 216 Peer Review Report
- Principles:
  - Technical not policy
  - Complete before final district report
  - ITR & EPR for complex projects or high risk
  - Chief makes final decisions

Planning Centers of Expertise

- Manage ITR and EPR
- Assigned based on primary purpose of study
- May conduct or manage ITR
- Post peer review agenda on Web
  - HQ-OWPR maintains National site
- Provide info for annual report to OMB
  - HQ-OWPR prepares and submits Corps report

407 – PMIP Model Certification

- PMIP is a 2003 DCW directive
- Review, improve and validate analytical tools & models
  - for appropriate, timely and cost-effective analysis to support decision making
- Certification process based on peer support/ review for technical soundness and usability
- Success will be:
  - Complete toolbox of models
  - Trained users
  - Corporate process to keep models current

Reasons for the PMIP Initiative

- Our long-term ability to produce high-quality investment decision documents is at risk
- National criticism of Corps decision making and models used
- Need a process to review, improve and validate analytical tools and models for USACE Civil Works business lines

Enhancement Bottom Line

- Better accountability within the Corps
- Better quality decisions
- Better collaboration
- More robust solutions

- MORE VALUE TO THE NATION